nominated to the Board of Directors of R.B.I., S.B.I., I.D.B.I. and other financial institutions an bdanks;

(b) what is the ratio of their representation on these boards at present; and

(c) what is the criterion followed in nominating these representatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) Appointment of non-official directors on the boards of Reserve Bank of India, public sector banks and financial institutions are made in accordance with the procedure and criteria prescribed in the relevant statutes. Government do nominate persons having special knowledge or experience in industry on the boards of banks and financial institutions in accordance with the above stautory provisions.

Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Finance

2116. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Willl the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Consultative Committee, apart from the Parliamentary Committees, in respect of his Ministry where represenetatives of various trade and commerce are nominated;

(b) if so, what criterion is followed in selecting these representatives; and

(c) the number of meetings normally held by this Committee during a year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

Monitoring Duty the Exemption

2117. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the grant of duty exemption by Government from time to time is not effectively monitored;

(b) whether Government and allied agencies have failed to curb such malpractices; and

(c) if so, the steps Government now propose to take to check the implimentation duty exemptions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The exemption from customs or excise duties are granted on merits of each case, taking into account all relevant considerations. The exemptions are granted in public interest by the Government.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Illicit Production of Mandrax

2118. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that clandestine production and illicit traffic in Mandrax has risen sizeably in the country during the past few years;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of rise in the production and illicit traffic of Mandrax during the last three years, year-wise according to the estimation, if any made by Government;

(c) what is the exisitng law to check illicit production of Mandrax in the country and what causes have been identified by Government for failure to check it; and

(d) the manner in which Government proposes to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) The production and smuggling of Mandrax is a clandesiine activity, it cannot be said definitely whether it is increasing in the country or otherwise. However, available information about the quantity of Mandrax seized during the alst three vears is as under: